

DOTS AND DASHES

WIRE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Peace Notes.

The premiers of the several federated states of the German nation were in session with the Berlin cabinet recently over the reparations question, the meeting being followed by the announcement that complete unanimity prevailed among all participants in the conference.

Absolute preservation of the Sevres treaty, which is to be the basis of the London conference, February 21, was urged by ex-Premier Venizelos of Greece, in a recent interview. "The treaty is the only guarantee of the stability of peace," declared the ex-premier.

The reparations commission estimates that the total damages of all the allies collectable from Germany will be between 210 billion and 250 billion gold marks, according to an official announcement. The ministry of foreign affairs calculates that the supreme council's fixed indemnities, if capitalized, should yield about 75 billion gold marks.

Poland and Rumania are negotiating a defensive alliance, which will include not only military affairs, but will contain economic and commercial features, Prince Sapieha, Polish foreign minister, told the Associated Press in Paris recently.

The French parliament, chamber and senate, has given its seal of approval to the government's declarations on the decisions taken by the supreme council at Paris respecting reparations, disarmament and other questions.

The German government has summoned its financial experts to prepare counter proposals on reparations for submission to the supreme council conference to be held soon in London.

A possible bolshevist offensive in the early spring against Poland and other states bordering on Russia will be the chief question discussed by the heads of the Polish and French governments at their forthcoming series of conferences.

Washington.

President Wilson has refused the request of railroad labor union representatives that he investigate the railroad executives' claims before the railroad labor board that the carriers must adjust wages or face bankruptcy. He also declined to submit the matter to congress.

Reporting a continued decline in the production of bituminous coal, the geological survey in its weekly report declared that the present situation in the bituminous fields "marked by industrial depression and mild weather, bears a striking resemblance to the period following the Armistice."

By unanimous consent, the senate has passed the Curtis measure which extends government guardianship and restrictions on sixty-two Quapaw Indians on a reservation near the Kansas-Oklahoma line for twenty-five years. On lands owned by these Indians are some of the most valuable zinc holdings in the country.

A census of all liquor in the possession of wholesale druggists in various parts of the country has been ordered by the prohibition commissioner, John Kramer, to determine how long the present ban against withdrawal of intoxicants from bonded warehouses shall remain in force.

The French government has fixed a new maximum price of \$9 a ton for all American coal, free on board, at French Atlantic ports.

The recount of ballots in the Michigan senatorial election of 1918, just finished by the senate elections committee, left Senator Newberry, Republican, with a plurality of 4,334 over Henry Ford. Ford made a net gain of 3,233 votes in the recount, but Senator Newberry's original plurality was 7,567.

While Admiral Sims and other officers before the house committee on naval affairs recently were opposing a naval holiday, the senate committee on naval affairs rejected the suggestion of a six month's suspension of navy building by the United States.

Domestic.

Thirty thousand dollars was taken from the state bank at Largo, a small town sixteen miles north of St. Petersburg, Fla., and several hundred dollars from the Atlantic Coast Line station by bandits, who escaped in a motor car.

A balcony in the North Denver high school gymnasium fell while a high school basketball game was in progress. More than one hundred spectators were plunged to the floor, ten feet below, and fourteen persons were injured, two of them severely. Most of the injured were women.

An increase in the number of cases of sleeping sickness in Cleveland, O., within two weeks from ten to eighteen, with nine deaths from the disease in January, was reported by Dr. H. L. Rockwood, city health commissioner.

Wholesale prices of meats, in the large consuming centers have dropped 15 to 40 per cent since last September and retail prices have declined 11 to 40 per cent, according to statements issued by the Institute of American Meat Packers and the United Master Butchers of America.

Unemployed men who are headed toward Chicago should know that the lodging houses and "flops" there are filled to the limit and have a long waiting list of idle men. The bread line also has appeared at one point on the West side.

Railway owners and workers are verging on a wage fight that may throw the roads back under government control. Labor heads, including Samuel Gompers, fear a strike if the railroad labor board at Chicago grants demands of the managers for wage reductions.

Denominational division was characterized as a "disaster" to the cause of religion by the Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, an Episcopal bishop of Bethlehem, Pa., in an address in St. Louis at the conference of representatives of various national and international movements for church unity.

Doors of distilleries and bonded warehouses in every state in the Union, Hawaii and Porto Rico have been ordered indefinitely closed against liquor withdrawals by Prohibition Commissioner Kramer. At the same time wholesale liquor dealers were ruled out of further participation in the sale of intoxicating beverages by Attorney General Palmer.

A general wage reduction for oil field workers in Oklahoma and Kansas has been made effective by the Gypsy Oil Company. It was announced at Tulsa. Wages of drillers, formerly paid \$14 a day, have been reduced to \$10.

Southwest.

Police efforts to identify the men who took B. I. Hobbs, a Houston, Tex., lawyer, from his bed late the other night, drove him in a motor car into the woods where they tarred and feathered him and closely clipped his hair, have proved unavailing.

Willis H. Thornhill, a mail messenger, reported to the police at St. Louis that he was held up at St. Charles, twenty miles west of there, by five men, who kidnapped him and stole a registered pouch, said to contain approximately \$100,000.

The bodies of three white men, killed by shots from a rifle or pistol, were found in a boat floating down the White River near its junction with the Arkansas. The men were identified as Roy Lewis, Will Elm and Charles Meyers, residents of the White River bottoms.

The Fort Smith & Western Railroad, operating between Fort Smith and Oklahoma City, has been ordered sold to the highest bidder March 31 by Judge Frank A. Youmans in federal court at Fort Smith, Ark. The road has been in the hands of the receiver for several years.

Foreign.

After conferences lasting all day between King Constantine and the party leaders, it was announced that M. Kalogeropoulos, minister of finance in the Rallis cabinet, who had been entrusted with the task of forming a new ministry, had completed its formation.

Articles providing for the election of the Polish president by a national assembly composed of both chambers were adopted by the diet. The qualifications prescribed for the president are that he shall be a native Pole, a Roman Catholic, and not less than 40 years of age.

The Greek cabinet formed November 18, last, by Premier Rallis, has resigned. This action was a result of the controversy between the premier and Minister of War Gounaris as to which one would head the Greek delegation which will attend the near East conference in London.

Italy and Jugo Slavia have exchanged ratifications of the treaty of Rapallo and the agreement is now in effect.

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An Appeal to the American People

THREE and one-half million children in Eastern and Central Europe have no alternative to disaster between now and next harvest except American aid. For months these most helpless sufferers in the track of war have been admitted to American feeding-stations only if tragically undernourished, and have received American medical aid only if desperately threatened by death from disease.

One 5 cent hot American meal today has saved a thousand lives.

Winter is closing down. The money of many nations is valueless outside their own boundaries. Economic and crop conditions make famine, with its terrible train of diseases, a certain visitor until next harvest. Inevitably the helpless children will suffer most. No child can grow to health and sanity on the pitiful makeshifts for food with which millions of European adults must content themselves this winter. It is obvious that the remedy can come only from outside.

America saved 6,000,000 European children winter before last. Normal recuperation cut the need nearly in half last year, but unusual conditions have resulted in scant shrinkage of child destitution during the twelvemonth just past. The response of America must now decide whether 3,500,000 of these charges, in acute distress, shall begin to be turned away in January from more than 17,000 asylums, hospitals, clinics and feeding-stations dependent on American support. There would be no tragedy in history so sweeping or so destructive of those who can deserve no evil.

The undersigned organizations, working among every race and creed, many engaged also in other forms of relief, agree unanimously that the plight of these helpless children should have complete priority in overseas charity until the situation is met. This is an issue without politics and without religious lines. There can be no danger of pauperization, for the \$23,000,000 for child food, and the \$10,000,000 for medical service that we seek, will relieve only the critical cases. The medical supplies, of course, must be an unqualified gift, but for every American dollar used in child-feeding, the governments and communities aided furnish two dollars in the form of transportation, rent, labor, clerical help, cash contributions and such food supplies as are locally obtainable.

America has not failed in the past in great heartedness. She has never had a more poignant call than this. Contributions should be turned over to the local committees which are now being formed for this national collection, or sent to Franklin K. Lane, Treasurer, Guaranty Trust Co., New York City.

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American Friends' Service Committee (Quakers), by Rufus M. Jones, Chairman
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, by Felix M. Warburg, Chairman
Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, by Arthur J. Brown
Knights of Columbus, by James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight
Y. M. C. A., by C. V. Hibbard, International Committee
Y. W. C. A., by Miss Sarah S. Lyon, National Board

Heart-Breaking Smiles



There are thousands of kinds of smiles, but it would be mighty hard to picture even in the mind's eye smiles more poignantly tragic than those here seen. Two years of life have held little save misery for these Vienna youngsters, yet, even though the result is painful, they smile. They are victims of rickets, the offspring of near-starvation, and that countless others in stricken Europe may not have to share their fate eight American relief organizations, under the name of the European Relief Council, are making a joint appeal for the conscience of America to complete relief work which this winter faces its crisis. These agencies are the American Relief Administration, the American Red Cross, the American Friends' Service Committee (Quakers), the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the Knights of Columbus, the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A.